The Investigator as collaborator in promoting the clinical research enterprise

Neil J. Weissman, M.D.

President, MedStar Health Research Institute Professor of Medicine, Georgetown University





A Noble Calling

But for clinical investigators and the participants in clinical trials, there would be no new therapies, or new information about existing therapies.



Communicating the Importance of Clinical Trials

- To establish new therapies for unmet needs
- To increase knowledge transfer to clinical practice
- To provide "evidence-based" patient care
- To improve the quality of care
 - Patients participating tend to receive better care
 - Future patients benefit from the knowledge gained





Establishing and maintaining the environment

- Community outreach to educate and inspire practicing physicians and the general public, and share best practices with other investigators
- Support and participate in clinical investigator training programs
- Advocate for policies to increase the efficiency and quality of clinical trials
- Actively seek to reduce barriers and facilitate smooth operational efficiency at your own institution
 - Contracting / legal reviews
 - Informed consent / IRBs
 - Dedicated trials liaison/operational group
- Convey site learnings to sponsor to improve future trial conduct





Communicating Results and Adopting Innovation

- Communicating results to trial subjects in patient-friendly manner
- Communicating results to the scientific community
- Communicating results to peers and colleagues
- Assist in the interpretation of results posted on CT.gov
- If you participated in a clinical trial that yielded an important medical innovation, you have an obligation to contribute to the adoption of that innovation



